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*To Advance the Science of Cold-blooded Vertebrates*

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FISH NOTES FOR 1924  
FROM SANDY HOOK BAY

THE species of fishes taken in Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey, during the summer of 1924 showed a considerable difference in their ratios of relative abundance from those of the preceding four years. The fauna was marked with a greater variety of southern forms than usual although the numbers of individuals were somewhat less. Sturgeons and large sharks were more numerous and the ubiquitous menhaden was very much less plentiful than formerly. The season was a poor one for the fishermen and complaints were proportionately greater.

Below is listed the species which had not been seen for one or more seasons previously but appeared again in 1924. The first, fifth and sixth were last seen in 1920, the fourth, seventh and eighth in 1921 and the remainder in 1922. *Acipenser brevirostrum* Le Sueur, *Gasterosteus bispinosus* Walbaum, *Apeltes quadracus* (Mitchill), *Lobotes surinamensis* (Bloch), *Orthopristes chrysopterus* (Linnaeus), *Rachycentron canadus* (Linnaeus), *Tautoglabrus adspersus* (Walbaum), *Balistes carolinensis* Gmelin, *Lagocephalus laevigatus* (Bloch and Schneider). *Elops saurus* Linnaeus and *Sphyræna*

*borealis* De Kay whilst present last year were not seen this season and *Lophius piscatorius* Linnaeus has not been seen since the spring of 1922.

The coastwise waters outside of the bays were reported as being unusually cold this summer although our Bay temperatures were about normal. This may be of significance in regard to the modified faunal proportions as here indicated.

The following notes seem worthy of record.

*Carcharhinus milberti* (Muller and Henle)

Large females of this species were common in the latter part of July (16 to 24). Two examined in detail showed the following proportions respectively, in mm. Total length 2133 (2095), anterior margin of first dorsal 368 (343), insertion of first dorsal to tip of snout 584 (622), pectoral 457 (457), origin of first dorsal to origin of second 749 (762), origin of second dorsal to peduncular notch 254 (229), origin of ventrals to anal 267 (279), snout 127 (127), width of gape 222 (197), angle of mouth to tip of snout 203 (203), greatest diameter of eye 25 (28), least diameter of eye 22 (25), pectoral extending beyond posterior tip of first dorsal 51 (22), second dorsal in advance of anal 25 (2), pectorals short of origin of ventrals 76 (101), weight in kilograms 55.11 (66.45). The following applies to both. Anal more deeply notched than second dorsal, slightly shorter and higher giving the impression of being a trifle larger. Slaty gray above, white below, indefinite dividing line bisecting gill clefts. Pectorals gray above, this color passing to underside at edges and tip, otherwise immaculate below. Ridge between first and second dorsal. The organs appeared to have given recent birth.

On July 24 a small one of about 610 mm. was taken and as usual examples of about this size were common at this time of year. Between September 12 and 19, five were taken which averaged 648, which figure may be taken as somewhat indicative of the rate of growth, as compared with 610 of July 24.

One of the fishermen reported that a large shark attacked his pound net as he was about to dip out his catch tearing great holes in it which he thought was this species. Large sharks were more abundant than they have been here for years, sometimes as high as six being taken in a single pound. Their numbers fell off in early August and about that time large numbers appeared off the shore of Staten Island especially in the vicinity of Princess Bay causing a nearly complete cessation of bathing at some points.

*Carcharhinus limbatus* (Muller and Henle)

A single male of about 900 mm. in total length was seen on July 24, which had been taken in one of the pound nets. As is usual with individuals of this size the fins were not edged with black. This is the first record of the species from Sandy Hook Bay. Fowler<sup>1</sup> does not recognize this as a species known from New Jersey waters.

*Tarpon atlanticus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes)

One of the fishermen described a fish taken by him in September which I judge must have been a tarpon. He estimated its length at about six feet. An old record of the New York Aquarium shows the capture of two individuals of this species on August 7 and September 11, 1914, respectively. A short untitled note of the occurrence appeared in the Bulletin of the New York Zoölogical Society, Vol. XVIII, No. 2, March 1915, p. 1215.

*Polydactylus octonemus* (Girard)

On August 15 a single example with a standard length (without caudal fin) of 170 mm. was taken in a pound net. The fishermen did not have a name for it, disclaiming to recognize the fish. The only other record of this species from New Jersey waters was made

<sup>1</sup>Fowler, Henry W. A list of fishes from New Jersey. Proc Bio. Soc. Wash. Dec. 30, 1920, vol. 33 pp 139-170.

<sup>2</sup>Breder, C. M., Jr. Additions to local records of New Jersey fishes. Copeia No. 107 June 20, 1922 pp 41-43

at Atlantic City in 1920<sup>2</sup>. During that year the waters outside of the bays were unusually cold, rather similar to those of the present season and may be connected in some way with the appearance of this fish even though it is a southern form.

*Rachycentron canadus* (Linnaeus)

On each of the following dates a single individual was taken in the pound nets; July 17, 24 and 30. Their respective standard lengths were 940, 847 and 787 mm. In the five years that the New York Aquarium's boat has been operating here but a single specimen had been taken prior to this year; in 1920.

*Chaetodipterus faber* (Broussonet)

A single example of this species about 300 mm. in standard length was taken on October 3. This is a new record for Sandy Hook Bay which with the other three records, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, *Tarpon atlanticus* and *Polydactylus octonemus* brings the list of recorded species to ninety-nine. This is also a late record for the New York region, September 20<sup>3</sup> being the latest date previously recorded.

Below are given local names of fishes used by the fishermen of Sandy Hook Bay not mentioned in the first regional list of this bay<sup>4</sup> *Petromyzon marinus* Linnaeus—Lamper eel, Lamprey, *Pomolobus mediocris* (Mitchell)—Hickory shad, Shadine, *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus (young when still very silvery)—Silver mullet, *Menticirrhus saxatilis* (Bloch and Schneider)—Barb, *Rachycentron canadus* (Linnaeus)—Silver catfish, *Peprius paru* (Linnaeus)—Angelfish, *Caranx chrysos* (Mitchell)—Skip jack, Flipper, *Vomer setipinnis* (Mitchell)—Horace Greely (young up to about 60 mm.)—Half a dollar, *Chilomycterus schoepfi* (Salbum)—Pineapple fish, Spiny toad.

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<sup>3</sup>Nichols, J. T. Fishes of the vicinity of New York City. Handbook Amer. Muse. Nat. His. Series No. 7, 1918 p 113.

<sup>4</sup>Breder, C. M., Jr. The fishes of Sandy Hook Bay. Zoologied Aug 15. 1922 Vol. II No. 15 pp 331-351.

BUFO AMERICANUS  
IN THE  
LABRADOR PENINSULA

THE following notes on the occurrence of batrachians in the southern portion of the Labrador peninsula may serve a need in view of the total lack of material from this region in herpetological collections. During the summer of 1924 at a point on the north side of Seven Islands bay, a number of toads and frogs were met with. The location was near the mouth of Riviere des Rapides. It is very seldom that batrachians are seen abroad in the bush anywhere north or east of the Saguenay watershed, except in a few places where man has settled and where grass and sunshine combined form a suitable habitat. Whether the occurrence of batrachians in such locations in the north, which are above the usual range of the creatures, is in any way determined by the migrations of man and his parasites both faunal and floral, is a possibility called to mind as a problem without of course being answerable until more travelers have brought out material. Referring solely to my own experiences, I can say that to encounter a batrachian colony in the region where I am ethnologically interested is little short of an explorer's adventure. The colony suddenly encountered at Seven Islands inhabits the abandoned clearing of a lumber operation of some years ago. Three or four decayed log stables and sheds and a surrounding mass of fine succulent meadow grass near the mouth of the river formed the environment. The contrast between this tempered situation and the deep moss lichen and shade of the adjacent sub-arctic bush was quite striking. In the grassy growth the toads and frogs were observed to the number of a dozen or more of each during the warmer part of the day.

The frogs were of a light brown body hue with the black postocular stripe, denoting an extension of *Rana cantabrigensis*. I regret not having brought out

specimens of this frog, the reason being that my only facilities at the time were a handkerchief in which to transport them alive. The frogs survived the rigors of such confinement for only a few days. Of the six toads exported in this fashion, two survived the summer and one is now living in a terrarium, the other preserved in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Mr. H. W. Fowler has examined the specimens with me and the following observations are offered.

The toads are all small (body length 40 and 49 mm. of these two specimens); the form and color bearing close resemblance to the type (*B. Americanus*). The parietal ridges and the parotoids are not quite so prominent. The skin is less rough. Their colors are brighter, the light dorsal stripe being conspicuous. There are similar lateral stripes on both sides, below which are wavy brown blotches alternating with white. The white patches show up quite plainly in life. The groin is tinged with warm brown. The under surface of white is very heavily marked with black and so is the throat. This small race is very active, and I have noticed that the living specimen spends much time buried about an inch deep in sand, as it well might in view of the menace of nightly frost during the short summer of its habitat zone.

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## SNAKES IN IDAHO

HAVING heard during 1920 that a "coral snake with red stripes" had been seen on the northern bank of Snake River in Ada County, south of Boise, I made several trips to this Canyon in hopes of adding something to Idaho's short list of reptiles. The results of my trips since that time were the taking of ten of the attractive little ringed Ground Snakes, *Sonora semiannulata*, or rather partly ringed as the name implies. In exactly the same locality were also found several

Ground Snakes which are another phase of the *Sonora*, without rings or suggestion of rings. Besides these there were a number of cast-off skins indicating that they were not as uncommon as might be supposed.

I have not seen any previous record of these being taken in Idaho nor of the garter snake *Thamnophis ordinoides couchii* and Spotted Night Snake, *Hypsiglena ochrorhynchus ochrorhynchus* secured in same region during summer of 1924. I also captured one of the latter in Black's Creek Canyon, Ada County, about 15 miles south of Boise, under rock in a den of rattlers, *Crotalus oreganus*, April 20, 1924.

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#### AN ADDITION TO THE HERPETOLOGICAL FAUNA OF THE UNITED STATES

ON October 26, 1924, on the east slope of Mt. Franklin, about five miles north of El Paso, Texas, Staff Sergeant J. C. Owens, Q.M.C., found a small snake which on further examination has proved to be *Trimorphodon vilkinsonii* Cope. The locality where the snake was found lies within the Pennsylvanian series of limestone at an elevation of about 5000 feet. The specimen is now in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History. *Trimorphodon vilkinsonii* was first described by Cope in 1886 from Chihuahua, Mexico. It has not been previously reported from the United States. The identification was made by Mr. K. P. Schmidt who is very familiar with this genus.

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## NOTES ON GRYPISCUS

NOT long since in response to an inquiry from the distinguished Brazilian zoologist, Dr. Alipio de Miranda Ribeiro, I had occasion to examine critically the type of Cope's *Grypiscus umbrinus*. This frog, brought back from Rio de Janeiro by Professor Louis Agassiz, was inadequately described by Professor Cope, (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. Ser. 2, Vol. 6, 1867, p. 205) and on the basis of his description was provisionally referred by Boulenger to the *Amphignathodontidae*, (Cat. Batr. Sal., 1882, p. 450). Cope's dissection of our type (M.C.Z. 1471) was so ruthless that today it is in a sad plight. The skin is torn from the head, the "caduceous pleurodont teeth" are gone, if ever they existed, and altogether the poor beast is but a historical relic and little more. Dr. Noble in his noteworthy "Phylogeny of the Salientia" (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 46, 1922, p. 1-87) placed this genus near *Cyclo-ramphus* and in so doing was no doubt correct. Now after a re-examination of the type I am convinced that it represents what Dr. Miranda Ribeiro has called *Iliodiscus semipalmatus* (Rev. Mus. Paulista, 12, 1920, p. 11, pl., —.) The same author has described several other apparently most distinct, but related, forms. The genus, therefore, may stand *Grypiscus umbrinus* Cope which is, of course, the genotype and *Grypiscus pinderi* (Mir. Rib.), *Grypiscus dubius* (Mir. Rib.) and *Grypiscus eleutherodactylus* (Mir. Rib.).

THOMAS BARBOUR

### A CORRECTION

To correct an error in my article on *Amia calva*, Copeia 133, *Natrix sipedon* should read *Natrix fasciata pictiventris*. This correction comes from Professor Frank N. Blanchard of the University of Michigan, to whom I sent seventeen specimens.

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